

**Submission of Indicated New York Transmission  
Owners  
For Authority to Construct and Operate Electric  
Transmission Facilities in Multiple Counties in  
New York**

**Case 13-M-0457**

***Leeds to Pleasant Valley 345 kV Reconductoring  
Project  
(LD-PV(R))***

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**LEEDS TO PLEASANT VALLEY 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE  
RECONDUCTORING PROJECT  
(LD-PV(R))**

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**Application**

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**APPLICATION**

Pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law (“PSL”), the Public Service Commission’s (“Commission”) regulations thereunder and the Commission’s Orders (including the December 16, 2014 Order Establishing Modified Procedures For Comparative Evaluation (the “December 2014 Order”)) in the above-referenced proceeding and in Cases 12-T-0502 and 13-E-0488, *inter alia*, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”) and NY Transco LLC (“NY Transco” and collectively with National Grid, the “Applicant”) submit this application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (“Certificate”) authorizing the reconductoring of two existing 345 kV overhead electric transmission lines from the Leeds Switching Station in the Town of Athens, Greene County, New York to the Pleasant Valley Substation in the Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York over a distance of approximately 39.8 miles (“Leeds to Pleasant Valley 345 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project,” or “LD-PV(R)” or the “Project”).

As required by Section 122 of the PSL, Section 85-2.8 of the Commission’s Regulations, and the above-referenced Commission Orders, this Article VII Application contains the following information:

- (a) Description of the Project;
- (b) Project Location;
- (c) Need for the Project;
- (d) Other Relevant Information; and
- (e) Conclusion.

**A. Description of the Project**

The Leeds to Pleasant Valley 345 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project will run a total of approximately 39.8 miles, as follows: from Leeds Switching Station in the Town of Athens, Greene County, New York over a distance of approximately 39.3 miles to Con Edison’s Pleasant Valley Substation in the Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York; and from Athens Junction to Athens Substation in the Town of Athens, Greene County, New York over a distance of approximately

0.5 miles. The reconductored parallel transmission lines will continue to operate at a nominal system voltage of 345 kV. The proposed conductor type for these lines is twin bundled 795 kcmil 26/7 ACSS “Drake”.

Although the cost of this Project is relatively low compared with the ED-NS/NS-LD-PV(R) alternative, it does not provide any of the additional needs and objectives identified within the Commission’s December 2014 Order and the Energy Highway Blueprint other than increasing the UPNY/SENY interface transfer limit.

- Expected to significantly increase the UPNY/SENY N-1-1 thermal interface capacity by approximately 1,150 to 1,350 MW.
- Expected to not degrade the Central East N-1 voltage interface.

## **B. Project Location**

The Leeds to Pleasant Valley 345 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring portion of the Project will remain within existing electric transmission ROW corridors. No new ROW acquisition will be required. The existing National Grid electric transmission ROW corridors that comprise the primary route for the Leeds to Pleasant Valley 345 kV Transmission Line traverse (from north to south) the counties of Greene, Columbia and Dutchess.

Detailed maps, drawings and explanations showing the proposed route of the Project are set forth in various exhibits, including Exhibit 2, to this Article VII Application.

## **C. Need for the Project**

The Commission instituted this proceeding in 2012 “to examine possible solutions to the problem of persistent congestion on portions of the New York Transmission System.”<sup>1</sup> The congestion problem has been well documented in the 2011 and 2013 New York Independent System Operator (“NYISO”) Congestion Assessment and Resource Integration Studies (“CARIS”), the 2012 New York State Transmission Assessment and Reliability (“STARS”) report, and the U.S. Department of Energy Draft “National Electric Transmission Congestion Study”. Resource adequacy and transmission reliability issues have also been described in the 2014 NYISO Reliability Needs Assessment (“RNA”).

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<sup>1</sup> Case 12-T-0502 – Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Examine Alternating Current Transmission Upgrades



In addition to congestion, reliability and resource adequacy, the transmission system in New York faces the following challenges:

- Aging infrastructure, which reduces resiliency to extreme weather events
- Limited capacity to address changes to the State generation portfolio
- Need to create a new NYISO capacity zone encompassing Load Zones G, H, I, and J (“New G-J Local Capacity Zone”), which can be avoided by increasing the UPNY/SENY transmission capacity
- Limited capacity to integrate renewable energy resources in the western part of the State
- Limited access to generation sources that would lower emissions
- Limited ability to expand the bulk transmission system
- Limited system robustness to respond to system operational needs.

The need for the Project is explained in greater detail in Exhibit E-4 of this Article VII Application, entitled Engineering Justification.

**D. Other Relevant Information**

Exhibit 1 provides the name, address, email and phone number of the principal officer of each of National Grid and NY Transco; and the status of each as organized under the New York Transportation Corporations Law.

**E. Conclusion**

The Applicant respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law:

- 1) Certifying the Project, including its construction, operation and maintenance, pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law; and
- 2) Granting such other and further authorizations, consents, permissions, approvals, waivers and permits, as necessary, for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project, including but not limited to, the issuance of a Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 USCA Section 1341.

Dated: January 20, 2015

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